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3/7/08

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East Central Indiana counties get grants for emergency aid

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Be prepared for harsh spring weather

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## **East Central Indiana counties get grants for emergency aid**

THE STAR PRESS

Local counties have received grant fund for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Food and Shelter Program for 2008.

Local counties receiving funds were: Blackford, \$9,903; Delaware, \$74,460; Grant, \$51,359; Henry, \$30,631; Madison, \$90,674; Randolph, \$18,678; Wayne, \$45,026..

EFS Program funds are used to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage and utility assistance programs for people with non-disaster related emergencies.

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Kankakee Valley

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# Post-News

**Posted:** Friday, March 7, 2008 8:59 AM CST

LAFAYETTE, Ind. -- With spring around the corner, every family should be prepared to face another season of destructive storms and flooding. Every home should have a Disaster Supply Kit that includes a weather radio. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) urge all Indiana residents to act now to assemble their family's emergency supplies before the start of the spring storm season.

"Weather radios have long been a staple of storm-prone communities," said J. Eric Dietz, State Coordinating Officer. "We'd like to educate all Indiana residents to appreciate their broader applications as early warning for nearly all disasters, ranging from flood and weather-related events, tornados, snow storms....even chemical releases. They are a must for any disaster preparedness kit."

National Weather Service forecasters provide routine weather programming at all times. During life-threatening weather conditions, the radios send out a special alarm tone. This is critical, because weather can turn deadly very fast. Tornados and flash flooding are two examples which can occur when people are sleeping or unaware of the forecast. Both can be deadly if people do not have an emergency plan or enough warning so that they can get to a safe place.

With a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, you will be alerted to dangerous weather and have time to take shelter. NOAA Weather Radios also broadcast warnings and information regarding technological disasters, such as chemical releases or oil spills. They can be purchased at most stores that sell electronic devices. Most run on batteries or have battery back-up.

"Every household should also have at least a three day supply of food and water," said Mike Smith, FEMA federal coordinating officer. "Disaster Supply Kits are a central aspect of preparedness, and we ask those who have not yet assembled their kits to do so before the start of the spring storm season."

Every home should be stocked with a supply kit and when storing the supplies, keep them easily accessible in case of an evacuation.

A Disaster Supply Kit should contain the following:

Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days

Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking utensils / fuel, paper plates, plastic utensils

Blankets / Pillows, etc.

Clothing - seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes

Medical supplies - first aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs

Special Items - for infants and the elderly

Toiletries - hygiene items

Moisture wipes

Flashlight - extra batteries

Radio - battery-operated and NOAA weather radio

Cash - (Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.)

Important documents - in a waterproof container

Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc

Keys

Toys, books and games

Tools - keep a set with you during the storm

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Pet care items

Proper identification, immunization records, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, muzzle and leash.

Visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov), [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov), and [www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm) for a thorough look into disaster preparedness and a more detailed list of emergency supplies. Also, [www.Ready.gov/kids](http://www.Ready.gov/kids) is an excellent resource for information on how to involve children in the process of assembling the family's Disaster Supply Kit.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.